

Remarks

Claims 1-4, 6-12, 14-20, and 22-24 are now pending in this application. Claims 1, 2, 9, 17, and 22 are amended. No new matter has been added. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-4, 6-12, 14-20, and 22-24 are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-24 are rejected as follows:

At page 2 of the Office Action, claims 1, 6, 9, 14, 17, and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,282,231 to Norman et al. ("Norman");

At page 6 of the Office Action claims 2-4, 10-12, and 18-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Norman in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0012411 to Heinzl et al. ("Heinzl"); and

At page 7 of the Office Action claims 7, 8, 15, 16, 23, and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Norman in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,621,855 to Van Stralen et al. ("Van Stralen").

Applicants respectfully traverse each of the above rejections in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

At page 8 of the Office Action claims 5, 13, and 21 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the elements of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, Applicants have amended claims 1, 9, and 21 to include the elements of respective claims 5, 13, and 21. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the above rejections are rendered moot and respectfully submit that claims 1-4, 6-12, 14-20, and 22-24 are now in condition for allowance.

Claims 2 and 22 are voluntarily amended to address matters of form and not to overcome the cited references. Therefore, these amendments should not be construed in a limiting manner.

Applicants do not otherwise concede, however, the correctness of the Office Action

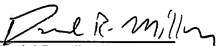
rejections with respect to any of the dependent claims discussed above. Accordingly, Applicants hereby reserve the right to make additional arguments as may be necessary to further distinguish the dependent claims from the cited reference based on additional features contained in the dependent claims that were not discussed above. A detailed discussion of these differences is believed to be unnecessary at this time in view of the basic differences discussed above with respect to the independent claims.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-4, 6-12, 14-20, and 22-24 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, a timely Notice of Allowance to this effect is earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned representative by telephone to discuss any outstanding issues with this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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